



P.O. Box 510 • Columbia, California 95310 • 1-800-431-3636 • www.zrafting.com

MERCED RIVER TRIP INFORMATION

Welcome to ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS and the MERCED RIVER! Although the churning waters of the Merced River do not look particularly "merciful" to today's rafters, it was a different story in 1806, when Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga and his men named the river "Nuestra Senora de La Merced" (Our Lady of Mercy).

The following detailed information and maps are designed to give you a smooth and enjoyable whitewater vacation. If you have any questions about any of the following information, feel free to give our office a call. During periods of high water or inclement weather, it is advisable to call our office to check in 2 days before your trip.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: PLEASE NOTE: OUR MEETING SPOT FOR ALL 2019 MERCED RIVER TRIPS IS CHANGING TO ANOTHER LOCATION IN THE EL PORTAL/MIDPINES AREA. OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY DECEMBER 31.

Full-Day Trips meet at 10:00 A.M. **sharp!**

Morning 1/2-day Trips meet at 8:30 A.M. **sharp!**

Afternoon 1/2-Day Trips meet at 2:00 P.M. **sharp!**

ONE-DAY TRIP LOGISTICS: Your head guide will meet you the morning of your trip at our staging area. After a brief orientation talk, wet-suits will be passed out, cars locked, and we will set out for a great day on the River. We will raft 16 miles, with a stop for lunch along the way. Depending on water levels (the higher the water, the faster the trip!) we will have you back to your vehicles between 3:30 and 5:30 in the afternoon.

HALF-DAY TRIP LOGISTICS: Morning trips meet at 8:30 A.M. and return at about 1:00 P.M. Afternoon trips meet at 2:00 P.M. and return at about 6:00 P.M. Your head guide will meet you at our staging area. After a brief orientation talk, wet-suits will be passed out (if needed), and we will board our bus for a short drive to put-in. We will raft 11 miles, ending at Briceburg where you will board our shuttle for the drive back to your car. LUNCH IS NOT PROVIDED ON 1/2-day trips, only beverages. Late Season 1/2-day trips will raft the 5.5-mile Gorge section.

MEALS: One day trips include a full lunch served on the river, as well as cold beverages at the end of the day. No alcohol of any kind is allowed during the day. Half-day trips do not include lunch. Please bring a water bottle with you on the raft.

WET SUITS: For trips through late May or so (depending on winter snowpack), wet-suits are a must. In spring, the water is high and cold, and we want you to be comfortable. Wet-suits are provided by Zephyr at no charge. A nylon swimsuit (or other thin material suit) should be worn underneath the wet-suit.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: For low-cost traveler's insurance, call (800) 937-1387 or (925) 932-1387. (Mon-Fri, 8:30 am-5:00 pm, PST)

WHAT TO BRING:

- Shorts / Swimsuit
- T-Shirt or long-sleeve shirt (for sun protection)
- Tennis shoes or sport sandals with heel strap (required to be worn in the boats) No flip-flops!
- Sunglasses with tie-on
- Baseball-style hat with brim (to wear underneath your helmet)
- Suntan Lotion and/or sunscreen
- Water bottle

TIPPING: We are frequently asked whether it is appropriate to tip guides. While our guides are well compensated for their skills, if you feel your trip was exceptional, or that your guide or guides went out of their way to make the quality of your experience a notch above the norm, tipping is a nice way of saying thank-you.

DIRECTIONS: PLEASE NOTE: OUR MEETING SPOT FOR ALL 2019 MERCED RIVER TRIPS IS CHANGING TO ANOTHER LOCATION IN THE EL PORTAL/MIDPINES AREA. OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY DECEMBER 31, AND WE WILL BE POSTING UPDATED DETAILED DRIVING DIRECTIONS.

Please note that the Highways in and around Yosemite can be confusing and summer traffic can add driving time to the estimates below. It is important that you key into where you are staying, and are clear on your driving directions. It is your responsibility to get to our meeting location ON TIME. If you are late, you will miss your trip and there are NO refunds.

FROM YOSEMITE VALLEY:

FROM MARIPOSA:

FROM TENAYA LODGE:

FROM MAMMOTH / MONO LAKE:

IF YOU ARE COMING FROM SAN FRANCISCO OR LOS ANGELES, please use the town of MARIPOSA as a destination marker and then follow "FROM MARIPOSA" directions above.

DRIVING TIMES

- Los Angeles 6.5 hrs (319 miles)
- Bay Area 4 hrs (195 miles)
- Groveland 1.5 hrs (49 miles)
- Tenaya Lodge 1.5 hrs (42 miles)
- Mariposa 1 hr (29 miles)
- Yosemite Valley 40 min (15 miles)

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: We recommend arriving in the area the night before your trip.

MOTELS in the MARIPOSA, MIDPINES, AND EL PORTAL AREA:

- Yosemite Bug Hostel & Lodge (209) 966-6666 www.yosemitebug.com (unique accommodation with a great restaurant)
- Mariposa Lodge (209) 966-3607
- Mother Lode Lodge (209) 966-2521
- Miners Inn Motel (209) 742-7777
- Quality Inn (209) 966-4344
- Best Western Plus (209) 966-7545
- River Rock Inn (209) 966-5793
- Cedar Lodge (209) 379-2612
- Yosemite View Lodge (209) 379-2681

CAMPING: For campgrounds in YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, call (801) 559-5000. For camping options outside the park, please see our [camping guide](#).

RESPONSIBILITY

In over 45 years of operation, ZEPHYR has maintained an excellent safety record. However, river trip(s) do involve risk, accidents can occur, and baggage can be lost. We assume no responsibility for injury to trip members, loss of personal baggage, damage to cameras or other equipment or loss of time or expense incurred. All trip members are required to sign a liability release and assumption of risk form prior to trip departure.